(b) if not, whether Government would consider bringing out stamps on them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) There is no proposal to bring out postal stamps on Kuvempu and Keladi Chennamma.

(b) The Department of Posts has already released commemorative postage stamp on Dr. Kuppali Venkatappa Puttappa popularly known as Kuvempu on 28.3.1997 No proposal on Keladi Chennamma has been received so far for examination by the Philatelic Advisory Committee.

I.T.I., Bangalore

920. SHRI K.B. KRISHNA MURTHY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Indian Telephone Industries, Bangalore, has made any profit or incurred loss during the years 2002-03 and 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) how many employees have been given VRS so far;

(d) whether there is any proposal to close down the above unit; and

(e) if not, the steps proposed to be taken to revive the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD):

(a) ITI has incurred losses during 2002-03 and 2003-04.

(b)	Year	Loss
	2002-03	Rs. 375 crore
	2003-04	Rs. 696 crore (Provisional)

(c) 12503 employees since 1991-92 to 2003-04.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Steps taken:—

(i) Government has provided guarantee to raise money to give VRS to its employees.

(ii) Reservation quota orders up to 30% has been given.

(iii) Advance payment of 75% of the purchase order value against the reserved quota orders.

(iv) Government has announced a revival packages of Rs. 508 crore in the ongoing Budget Session.

(v) Transfer of technology agreement signed by the Company with M/s Alcatel for GSM system.

Poor quality of mobile services

†921. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY by pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that users of mobile phones are not able to get quality service as a result of mutual business competition among several mobile telephone service providers in private sector;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) in what manner, an assured situation for better services would be achieved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD): (a) and (b) No, Sir. On the contrary, it is observed that customers are likely to get better quality of service due to competition among service providers.

(c) Does not arise in view of (a) & (b) above.

Private telecom companies

†922. SHRIMATI KUM KUM RAI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of private telecom companies providing services in the country;

(b) the details of telecom services being provided by those companies in rural areas of various States;

(c) the number of WLL and cable telephone connections provided to the urban and rural subscribers in Bihar from the year 2003 till the 30th June, 2004 by Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited; and

(d) the target fixed for the years 2004-05?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.